

In re Appln. of Verschueren et al
Application No. 10/016,960

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Pending Claims

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 1-8 are directed to direct-to-plate methods of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate having a hydrophilic surface.

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 7 stands rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1, for containing subject matter which was not described in the specification.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Vermeersch et al. (i.e. EP 802,457) in view of Nussel et al. (i.e. U.S. 5,816,161) and Timpe et al. (i.e., U.S. 5,698,360).

Discussion of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1 Rejection

Rejection to claim 7

The rejection to claim 7 as amended is improper. As amended, claim 7 is supported by the specification.

Discussion of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

(a) Claims 1-7

The obviousness rejection of claim 1, and those claims dependent on claim 1, over Vermeersch et al. ("Vermeersch"), in view of the Nussel et al. ("Nussel") and Timpe et al. ("Timpe"), are improper in view of the following comments.

Vermeersch and Nussel do not disclose the step of treating a recycled substrate by supplying an aqueous solution having a pH less than 7. To teach this limitation, the Examiner relies upon Timpe. However, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Vermeersch and Nussel with Timpe. Vermeersch and Nussel relate to printing substrates that are reusable or recyclable. Timpe, on the other hand, is neither directed to reusable nor recyclable printing substrates. Timpe teaches the preparation of substrates to be

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used as supports for printing plates, said preparation including treatment with a hydrochloric acid electrolyte. Timpe does not teach the reuse or recycling of the substrate. Because these two types of printing plates are from divergent arts, there is no motivation set forth in the references themselves that would justify the combination asserted in the Office Action. The extrapolation of Timpe's suggestion to the present invention can only be done with improper hindsight.

The allowance of claims 1-7 is respectfully solicited.

(b) Claims 8 & 9

Examination of newly presented claims 8-9 on the merits is respectfully solicited. Dependent claims 8-9 are patentable over the prior art cited in the Office Action. The methods described in claims 8-9 are neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art, either alone or in combination.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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